

Application No. 10/061,026
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus using
the print board according to claim 5, comprising:

an image forming section ~~to form an image and having a~~
plurality of second which includes at least one said print boards
5 board; and

a control section ~~to control~~ which controls the image
forming section, and ~~having a first~~ and which comprises a main
print board including a data processing device,

wherein ~~each of the plurality of second print boards~~
10 ~~comprises a printed circuit board, parts mounted on the printed~~
~~circuit board and a memory device for memorizing life information~~
~~of the parts~~ the data processing device is adapted to write in
and read out the life information to and from the at least one
print board.

2. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of
claim 1, wherein the memory device is comprises a nonvolatile
memory. , ~~and the life information can be written in and read out~~
~~from each of the plurality of the second print boards by the data~~
5 ~~processing device.~~

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3. (Currently Amended) ~~Am~~ The image forming apparatus of claim 2, wherein data to be written by the data processing device ~~is comprises~~ at least one of a time period of energized state, a number of times of energizing, a date of latest use, and failure information of the ~~plurality of the second at least one print boards board~~.
5

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data processing device and ~~each of the memory devices of the plurality device of the second at least one print boards board~~ are connected through one of a serial bus or and a parallel bus.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~plurality of print boards board~~ for use in an image forming apparatus, ~~each of the plurality of print boards said print board~~ comprising:

at least one part mounted on the print board;

5 a memory device for memorizing storing life information of ~~a the part installed on each of the plurality of print boards;~~ and

an external connection connector having a common specification with an external connection connector of an additional print board used in the image forming apparatus;

10 ~~a interface, which is unified for the plurality of print boards, to make possible reading out and clearing of wherein an~~

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external part life inspection apparatus is connectable to the
memory device through the external connection connector to read
out and clear the life information and ~~writing and reading to~~
15 write and read out of the number of times of reuse by ~~an~~ of the
part; and

wherein the external part life inspection apparatus
determines whether each part mounted on the print board can be
supplied for reuse based on the life information and the number
20 of times of reuse of the part.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~plurality of~~ print boards board
of claim 5, wherein the life information includes at least one of
a time period of energized state, a number of times of
energizing, a latest date of use, failure information, and a
5 number of prints produced.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~plurality of~~ print board of
claim 5, wherein the memory device ~~is~~ comprises a nonvolatile
memory.

8. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of
claim 1, wherein the memory device ~~memorizes~~ stores a security
code together with the life information.

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9. (Original) The image forming apparatus of claim 8,
wherein the security code is encrypted.

10. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of
claim 8, wherein the security code ~~can be rewritten~~ is rewritable
by at least one of the image forming apparatus ~~or and~~ by ~~an~~ the
external part life inspection apparatus.

11. (Original) The image forming apparatus of claim 10,
wherein the security code is encrypted.

12. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of
claim ~~8~~ 10, wherein the memory device comprises:

a first memory area provided with first ~~protect~~ protection
means ~~such that for permitting~~ rewriting can be done by ~~an~~ the
5 external part life inspection apparatus ~~but cannot be done and~~
~~for prohibiting~~ rewriting by the image forming apparatus;

a second memory area provided with second ~~protect~~ protection
means ~~such that for permitting~~ rewriting can be done by the image
forming apparatus ~~but cannot be done and for prohibiting~~
10 rewriting by the external part life inspection apparatus; and

a third memory area where data ~~can be rewritten~~ is
rewritable by both of the image forming apparatus and the
external part life inspection apparatus;

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15 wherein the first memory area ~~memorizes~~ stores first life information and a first security code including an ID code and an allowed model code, the second memory area ~~memorizes a~~ stores second life information, and the third memory area ~~memorizes~~ stores a second security code ~~{USE code}~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 12, wherein the control section reads out the life information and the security code from the memory device, and ~~makes a judgment~~ judges whether or not the a model code ~~memorized~~ stored in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code agree with each other.

14. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 13, wherein the control section reads out ~~firstly~~ the first security code ~~out of the first security code and~~ before the second security code.

15. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control section further comprises a display unit to display a judgment result of the ~~judgment~~ control section if the control section makes a judgment that the model code ~~memorized~~ stored in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code do not agree with each other.

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16. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein if the control section ~~makes judgment~~ judges that the model code ~~memorized~~ stored in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code do not agree
5 with each other, the display unit displays a result of the judgment and the control section prohibits an image forming operation.

17. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein if the control section ~~makes a judgment~~ judges that the model code ~~memorized~~ stored in the control section and the allowed model code in the first security code do not agree
5 with each other, the control section transmits a result of the judgment to a managing ~~person~~ user through at least one of a network line ~~or through~~ and a telephone line.

18. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the second memory area is rewritten based on ~~the basis of the~~ a result of the judgment.

19. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 12, wherein the second security code comprises a USE code.